



Forestburg Independent School District

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Principal: Karen Wiley

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Superintendent: John Metzler

To: Federal Communications Commission

Re: Petition for Waiver, Proceeding #02-6

To Whom it May Concern:

I am the Technology Director responsible for ERate filing at our school district, Forestburg Independent School District, in Forestburg, Texas. I unfortunately missed the deadline for filing the ERate Form 472 BEAR form, which was 10/28/2017. The deadline is calculated as 120 days after the date of last received service, which for our CAT 1 internet through Education Service Center Region 9, was 6/30/2017. Since I failed to file for a 120 day extension prior to the deadline, USAC suggested that I file a Petition for Waiver (Proceeding No. 02-6) with the FCC using your ECFS system.

We have undergone a lot of recent improvements to our network infrastructure through the generous 70% discount that the FCC provides through the ERate system. Through ERate, we've been able to switch to a fiber 1 Gb Internet connection (CAT 1), replace all our old WiFi access points with a robust, easy-to-manage system, and replace our old switches and cabling (through CAT 2). Using our own funds we expanded our 1 to 1 program so every core teacher has a cart of Chromebooks for students to use. For a small 1-school PK-12 district in rural Texas, these changes for some students will mean the difference between success and failure. We are grateful for the FCC ERate program.

All of the robust changes to our technology infrastructure has kept me very busy. Unfortunately, I got confused and looked at the wrong date to calculate the 120 days until the BEAR Form 472 deadline. The rule says you get 120 days past the last date of service or receipt of Form 486 Notification Letter (whichever is later). In my haste I misread the date of our Form 486 Notification Letter as 8/29/2017, when in fact it was 8/29/2016. I waited until things settled down to fill out the BEAR form, and that's when I discovered it was too late to even file for a 120-day extension.

Please consider our request to petition for a waiver to file our BEAR form 472 late. By submitting this BEAR form we will be reimbursed \$7,560 from Region 9 for our Internet services in 2016-17. That is a significant amount of money for a small rural school district.

Thank you for your time. Please let me know if you have any questions,

Richard L. Lewis
Forestburg Independent School District
District Technology Director

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